

MINUTES

OF THE

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

MEETING

APRIL 10, 2008

SOUTHWEST IOWA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
MOUNT AYR, IOWA

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by Chairperson Elizabeth Garst at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at the Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Commissioner Garst welcomed the public to the meeting. She thanked the local DNR staff for their assistance and presentations on the tour.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Garst
Kim Francisco
Gregory Drees
Janelle Rettig
William Bird

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Kramer

APPROVE AGENDA

Announcement was made that Item 7 would be moved up on the agenda to follow Item 4.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the April 10, 2008 NRC agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Rettig. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

AGENDA APPROVED

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the March NRC minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Bird.

Commissioner Francisco noted that the second full paragraph on page 3 should be amended by deleting the second sentence. Commission discussion concluded that both the Director and Chairperson can equally request agenda items.

Commissioner Garst stated that following the comments as noted in the last paragraph of page 2, she expressed that the Director should make every effort to attend the meetings or have staff that are empowered to speak on the Director's behalf about what staff will or will not do. She explained that those comments arose because of a request made during a commission meeting for staff to do more outreach by talking to the public about alcohol on beaches. There was no objection made to that request at the meeting and the impression was that would happen. However, there was an objection later and staff did not do public outreach as requested. Director Leopold agreed that issues that require major time or energy should be routed through his office but Commissioners may go directly to staff with routine type questions or visits.

Commissioner Rettig noted that the motion as indicated on page 10 should read that it carried on a 5-0 vote with Commission Kramer abstaining.

Motion to approve the minutes, as amended carried by unanimous vote of those present.

MINUTES APPROVED AS AMENDED

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Director Leopold stated that the legislature is in its final weeks. He reviewed some legislation as it stands now, but cautioned that it could be changing at this moment.

- The Lakes Fund is at \$8.6 million, which is status quo.
- Money for water trails is at \$3 million with \$2 million through DED Catt grants for riverside enhancement, water trails, dam work, etc. and \$1 million to DNR for water trails low-head dam safety. This is in addition to the \$250,000 already in that fund.
- In the Governor's budget and legislative budget there is a \$250,000 nick to our General Fund money, but it is hopeful we will get that back.
- REAP went from \$15.5 million to \$16 million in the Governor's budget and early legislative budgets. Leopold explained that increase was actually money that was taken away from air quality monitoring and other programs in the environmental services side, but recent word is the legislature might boost REAP to \$20 million which would be a gain and provide money for energy climate change work and for air quality monitoring.
- Park safety money is currently at \$2 million but appears that will be reduced to \$1 million.
- Sustainable Funding is going to the House floor today. (Later in the meeting word was received that Sustainable Funding passed the House).
- The deer bill, which mainly deals with depredation, has been signed by Governor.
- PFD for kids is still alive in the House. There continues to be concern it might come back as an amendment to another bill.
- \$8 million for Honey Creek looks good. Leopold noted that Terry Montgomery has accepted another position and that Deputy Director, Liz Christiansen will be the major lead on Honey Creek. He said staff has talked to people at the Capitol, legislative leadership, the Bonding Authority, Treasurer's Office, Attorney General's Office, Auditor's Office, etc. about Honey Creek Resort and this has been well received on the hill.

--Iowa Power Fund is moving forward.

--The Watershed Council bill has been passed and signed. This Council is made up of DNR, IDALS, DED, the three universities, and the US Geological Survey to guide the prioritization and remediation efforts in water quality. Director Leopold noted that the department is already doing this work but now it is in legislation.

Director Leopold reported that he and other staff attended the National Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Conference in Phoenix. He said the emphasis at the conference was on Climate Change-Global Warming and noted the importance of looking at what is happening to our natural resources as to growing seasons, precipitation levels, temperature changes, frequency of and intensity of storm events, invasive species, etc. Leopold said DNR will soon have a full time person to develop a plan.

Director Leopold introduced Tammie Krausman, the department's Public Affairs Coordinator. He said Tammie will be working with the Director's Office and the entire DNR telling what we do and to help integrate getting our story out to help us do our mission. Leopold said department has some of the best people, bar none, working for the DNR that are passionate, professional and do a great job but there is also a problem with management and with public perception. He related that regional meetings will be held across the state later this summer and fall with staff, with editorial and other media, and there will be open public meetings as well. He said this will not only get our word out on things we are working on but to hear back on things from the public and the media.

A joint NRC/EPC meeting is scheduled for May 12 at the Raccoon River Nature Lodge. Discussion topics will include how DNR sets policy, funding priorities and legislation for 2009.

Director Leopold said he continues to work with the Governor's Office on appointments for two EPC commissioners and one NRC commissioner.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Linda Hanson, Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item.

Don Labate was introduced and presented information and pictures on the Storm Lake projects. He gave an overview of the multi-phase project, showing what has been accomplished to date and future plans for the area. Labate also described the green and sustainable features incorporated into the projects.

Bids were opened April 2, 2008 for the following projects:

Storm Lake Marina, Buena Vista County -- PCC Paving

This project consists of the Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) paving of roadways, parking areas, and other related work as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. During the design of this project, attention was given to handicapped accessibility and ease of use by the public. The design includes groundwater interception via porous paving blocks to subsurface storage under portions of the parking areas, and the south half of the main parking area drains to

a rain garden which will eliminate storm water runoff from the area and provide filtering and recharging of adjacent groundwater aquifers. Project is budgeted \$252,894.51 from Park and Institutional Road Fund, \$148,438.09 from Marine Fuel Tax, and \$148,438.09 from U.S. Coast Guard Funds (Capital Link #61). DNR estimate is \$752,000. Project was designed and will be inspected by Don Labate. 25 sets of Plans were issued. 4 bids were received.

K. Cunningham Construction Co., Inc.	Cedar Falls, IA	\$549,770.69
Godbersen-Smith Construction Co.	Ida Grove, IA	\$583,928.60
Jensen Builders, Ltd.	Fort Dodge, IA	\$635,735.00
Cedar Valley Corporation	Waterloo, IA	\$673,734.30

Staff recommends award of contract to K. Cunningham Construction Co., Inc., low bidder.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Storm Lake, Buena Vista County -- Boat Ramps

This project consists of the replacement of existing concrete boat ramps with two new double-lane concrete ramps and incidental work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted 50% Marine Fuel Tax and 50% U.S. Coast Guard Funds. (Capital Link #61). DNR Estimate is \$35,000. Project was designed by Ken Jackson and will be inspected by Don Labate. 10 sets of Plans were issued. 2 bids were received.

Godbersen-Smith Construction Co	Ida Grove, IA	\$54,180.00
Graves Construction Co., Inc.	Spencer, IA	\$67,516.00

Staff recommends award of contract to Godbersen-Smith Construction Co., low bidder

<p><i>Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the low bid of K. Cunningham Construction Co., Inc. of Cedar Falls, Iowa, in the amount of \$549,770.69 for the paving project at Storm Lake Marina and to approve the low bid of Godbersen-Smith Construction Co. of Ida Grove, Iowa, in the amount of \$54,180.00 for boat ramps at Storm Lake. Seconded by Commissioner Drees. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.</i></p>

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Bids were opened March 20, 2008 for the following projects:

Village Creek, Allamakee County -- Boat Ramp/Fishing Access

This project consists of the placement of concrete Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access fishing platform, ADA access walkway on the southeast side of the state-owned marina, installation of a floating fishing pier, and other related work as required by the Plans and DNR Construction Inspector. During the design of this project, attention was given to handicapped

accessibility and ease of use by the public. Project is budgeted 75% from Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund and 25% from Dingle Johnson (Capital Link #8). DNR estimate is \$58,000. Project was designed by Ken Jackson and will be inspected by Mel Pacovsky. 16 sets of Plans were issued. 5 bids were received.

Walleser Excavating	Lansing, IA	\$30,385.26
Concrete Foundations Inc.	New Hampton, IA	\$40,437.50
Matt Construction Inc.	Sumner, IA	\$48,840.00
Tschigffrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$61,886.25
Sunflower Enterprises LLC	Dubuque, IA	\$83,267.50

Staff recommends award of contract to Walleser Excavating, low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rettig to approve the low bid of Walleser Excavating of Lansing, Iowa, in the amount of \$30,385.26 for fishing access construction at Village Creek in Allamakee County. Seconded by Commissioner Bird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Backbone State Park, Delaware County -- Roadway Construction

This project consists of the reconstruction and Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) paving of several roadway sites and incidental work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. The design includes concrete paving that has less “heat island” effect than asphalt pavement. Project is budgeted \$393,150 Park and Institutional Road Fund and \$72,000 REAP Land Management (Capital Link #25). DNR estimate is \$465,150. Project was designed by Ken Jackson and will be inspected by Mel Pacovsky. 20 sets of Plans were issued. 6 bids were received.

Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete	Cascade, IA	\$253,439.25
Concrete Foundations Inc.	New Hampton, IA	\$272,740.00
Tschigffrie Excavating Co.	Dubuque, IA	\$292,661.27
Allied Construction Co.	Charles City, IA	\$321,345.00
K Cunningham Construction Co.	Cedar Falls, IA	\$321,840.60
Portzen Construction	Dubuque, IA	\$346,774.00

Staff recommends award of contract to Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete, low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the low bid of Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete of Cascade, Iowa, in the amount of \$253,439.25 for roadway construction at Backbone State Park in Delaware County. Seconded by Commissioner Rettig. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Lake Darling, Washington County -- Beach Complex

This project consists of reshaping the beach area to accommodate a sidewalk, installation of an outdoor shower and fire hydrant, plumbing to the restroom, electrical service to the shelter, and other related work as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. During the design of this project, attention was given to handicapped accessibility and ease of use by the public. Project is budgeted \$22,100 from private funds and the remaining from Parks Health and Safety (Capital Link #98). DNR estimate is \$42,500. Project was designed and will be inspected by Heath Delzell. 13 sets of Plans were issued. 2 bids were received.

Hadley Plumbing & Heating	Richland, IA	\$60,551.00
All-American Concrete Inc.	West Liberty, IA	\$64,000.00

Staff recommends award of contract to Hadley Plumbing & Heating, low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rettig to approve the low bid of Hadley Plumbing & Heating of Richland, Iowa, in the amount of \$60,551.00 for beach complex construction at Lake Darling in Washington County. Seconded by Commissioner Drees.

Don Labate explained that the restroom facility will be purchased through a GSA contract and will be a precast concrete restroom building with a concrete floor, concrete walls and a concrete roof, but will look like it has wood siding and a shake roof. He said this purchase can be made for half the cost of what has been spent on these structures in the past. Labate said not only is it a nice looking building but can serve as a tornado shelter and can be constructed on our concrete slab in one day.

Linda Hanson noted the private funds raised for this project and said a major local fund raising effort for this whole complex resulted in a check to DNR for about \$500,000 to assist with this project. Hanson also reported that there was a \$250,000 appropriation from the legislature for Lake Darling. She added that this is one of those projects where it might be beneficial to see the tracking for the entire project. She said this is a community coming together and doing that fund raising but it takes both of us to make the projects so they work.

Commissioner Rettig related that it would be helpful on these multiple phase projects, both for the commission and for the public to understand how much the government is investing in that overall project.

Don Labate commented that some of these projects are brought to the Commission in pieces sometimes because of funding but a lot of times the work is so different that better pricing is achieved by breaking up the project.

Commissioner Drees questioned the language in the item about reshaping the beach area and asked if there would be actual work on the waterfront that might require storm water management techniques. Don Labate explained that this is a sidewalk project and said there is a slope between the beach and the parking lot and that is what is being reshaped.

Discussion continued regarding the private funds for the project. The breakdown of funds was given.

Commissioner Bird encouraged staff at Green Valley to tap into Friends groups because that seems to be the way of the future. He said it appears that there is a real core of people at Green Valley that enjoy and love the park and there should be meetings to encourage them to help with that park.

Commissioner Rettig said consideration should be given to having someone on staff to do the outreach and coordination of local grants, local foundations and businesses and for fundraising of matching funds. She said it appears that some individual parks do a good job at fundraising and other parks do not have it happening. Rettig said that it is hard for parks people who have a hundred other things on their agenda to put that at the top of the list, but a fundraiser or grant person on staff could coordinate that.

Director Leopold related that the Parks Bureau Chief has worked with park managers encouraging them to be active in their communities, such as in their Kiwanis, Chambers of Commerce and organizations like that. He said those types of relationships are what facilitate these Friends groups. He also said that the State Parks Foundation is a more centralized source with lots of plans, but not much money yet. Leopold said there is only four state parks staff in the central office because all other staff is in the field.

Commissioner Bird related that the local people have the best contact with their local groups and have done a good job doing that, but when they have that initial meeting or get into the process, there should be the parks bureau chief or division administrator showing up and talking to the group so the local people know that not only the local staff, but also the central office staff is supportive and in favor of this process.

Kevin Szcodronski reported that at their statewide meeting this year they had a session where staff who had success stories on finding grants locally shared their success with the other staff.

Commissioner Rettig commended those that have been successful and said she understands why some of the other areas are not successful when they are understaffed and overworked. She said that having someone coordinate and help find matching funds would pay for themselves immediately with the first grant that they found. She added that until the foundation board and sustainable funding get going, there is more money out there we could be getting if we were aggressive about it.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

Geode State Park, Henry County -- Combination Shelter

This project consists of the construction of an approximately 802 square foot, one-story (no basement), unheated, metal-roofed, reinforced-concrete, masonry building, with a 2070 square foot attached shelter. The building includes public restrooms and a kitchen area, as well as some exterior concrete sidewalk and beach-pylon shower as shown on the drawings. During the design of this project, attention was given to sustainability, handicapped accessibility, and vandal resistance. The necessary ventilation in both the kitchen and restrooms is provided by passive exhaust ventilators that do not use energy and also double as tube-type skylights replacing the need for electrical lighting during the day. The lighting fixtures and bulbs are designed to be fluorescent with maximum energy efficiency. The water heater is a continuous flow model and is designed to heat water on demand by heating the pipe as water passes through, saving energy by not keeping water stored in a tank at a specific temperature. The stools in the restroom use the minimum water necessary for proper flushing and the lavatory faucets are metered to deliver only a preset amount of water necessary for hand washing. Both automatically turn themselves off after use, and the same applies to the exterior beach shower. To prevent graffiti, the exterior of the concrete blocks are rock faced and the doors are standard steel door designed to resist vandalism. The facility is designed to be fully handicapped in accordance with the state building code and the American Disability Act. Project is budgeted \$81,000 from private funds and remaining from Iowa Values Funds (FY04 and FY07) (Capital Link #85). DNR estimate is \$326,400. Project was designed by Thierry Amice and will be inspected by Heath Delzell. 30 sets of Plans were issued. 3 bids were received.

Bi-State Contracting Inc.	Burlington, IA	\$273,015.04
First Construction Group	Burlington, IA	\$273,902.20
Regal Construction Services	Iowa City, IA	\$301,980.64

Staff recommends award of contract to Bi-State Contracting Inc., low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bird to approve the low bid of Bi-State Contracting, Inc. of Burlington, Iowa, in the amount of \$273,015.04 for shelter construction at Geode State Park in Henry County. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.

Don Labate briefly talked about the building, noting the sustainability issues, the handicapped accessibility and vandal resistance.

Commissioner Garst reminded staff to get press releases out on these projects and to do local stories, specifically detailing the energy efficient features of the projects.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

VOLGA STATE RECREATIONAL AREA -- CONSULTING FIRM SELECTION FOR THE DESIGN OF A CAMPGROUND INCLUDING UTILITIES

Don Labate, Engineering Services, presented the following item.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to solicit proposals from qualified engineering consulting firms with experience in providing engineering and consulting services for the design of a complete Recreational Vehicle (RV) campground along with underground utilities. The scope also included design of water treatment and wastewater treatment lagoon system at Volga River State Recreation Area.

The selected firm will design 28 new electric RV sites, convert the existing 11 drive-through RV sites into full hookup sites, design a new water well with treatment and distribution, design wastewater collection and treatment system, and other miscellaneous utility work for future cabins and restrooms.

Eight proposals were received. The proposals were reviewed by a 4 member evaluation committee: Angela Corio, Mike Hameed, Don Labate and Gabe Lee. The evaluation committee scored the submitted proposals based on the following criteria: 1) capability to undertake the project (30); 2) technical expertise (30); 3) work plan to execute the project (20); and 4) cost of services (20).

Out of a possible 100 points, the proposals received the following scores:

Bartlett & West, Inc.	83.75
Stanley Consultants	74.25
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	70.00
MSA Professional	68.50
Lee Engineering	67.75
Bonestroo	65.75
Yaggy Colby Associates	54.25
TeKippe Engineering	54.00

Staff recommends awarding the contract to Bartlett & West, Inc., the vendor with the highest score. We are still in the process of negotiating the consulting fees for the services and the final number will be provided to the Commission at the April 10th meeting.

Don Labate reviewed the RFP process and noted that Bartlett & West, Inc. was picked by score. Since that time, a fee of \$78,000 has been negotiated with the firm.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bird to approve awarding a contract to Bartlett & West, Inc. for a negotiated price of \$78,000 for design of a campground, including utilities at Volga State Recreational Area. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.

Short discussion ensued about why this could not be done internally. Explanation was that because of the severity of the lagoon situation, the expertise of a consultant was needed.

Commissioner Rettig asked that the locations of the engineering firms or bidders be included in the item briefs in the future.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

CONSULTING FIRM APPROVED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – RAYMOND SHIELDS

Raymond Shields, Diagonal, Iowa and member of Ringgold County Farm Bureau, asked what was being done to address the deer population. He said the deer population is getting out of control and he does not like feeling like he is a custom feeder for the DNR. He said he has considerable damage from the deer every year but if he shoots a deer out of season the deer belongs to DNR and he has to pay a fine for that deer he has fed all year. Mr. Shields asked about the bill pertaining to deer depredation.

Director Leopold explained that the bill focuses on deer depredation damage with landowners and is an issue staff has been working with the Farm Bureau on. He said the southern and eastern Iowa continue to have an over population of deer but have been working on that and with the depredation programs, we are reacting to take the population down to a more acceptable and sustainable level.

Commissioner Garst suggested that Mr. Shields talk with Ken Herring and the deer depredation biologist to learn more about the deer depredation program. She explained that this is a specific program for people who have monetary damages as a result of deer depredation.

Commissioner Francisco reported that Farm Bureau had sponsored an event in Milo to apprise people of the depredation programs. He said it was successful that more may be set around the state.

LAND ACQUISITION

Linda Hanson, Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item. Travis Baker, Land Management Services, was available to talk about these items.

Waterman Creek Prairie Complex, O'Brien County -- Jack Hill

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the acquisition of a parcel of land located 3 miles northwest of Peterson in O'Brien County. This approximately 4.7-acre parcel is being offered by Jack Hill for \$2,000 per acre (exact acreage to be determined by survey).

Jerry Gibson negotiated the option in compliance with Title 49 CFR Part 24 that allows the negotiator to negotiate without an appraisal up to a value of \$10,000. The price per acre was arrived at using comparable sales in O'Brien and Clay Counties.

The property consists of one acre of native prairie, one acre of pasture and 2.7 acres of pasture and shrubs. Acquisition of the property will resolve a boundary dispute dealing with livestock crossing an abandoned railroad right-of-way owned by the State of Iowa, and eliminate fencing through a wetland on the west side of the parcel.

Acquisition funding will be provided by the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund (Capital Link #2) and will remain on the property tax roll. Surveying costs are estimated at \$2000. The DNR and sellers will share fencing responsibilities. Incidental closing costs and surveying are the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Drees to approve the acquisition of approximately 4.7 acres located 3 miles northwest of Peterson in O'Brien County from Jack Hill for \$2,000 per acre (exact acreage to be determined by survey). Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.

Discussion ensued regarding the issue of cattle moving through the culvert and trespassing on state land. Commissioner Rettig stated that she is not opposed to us getting the land but is opposed to someone using our land and then we purchase the land to prevent the trespassing.

Travis Baker explained that it is hard to maintain a cattle fence in a wetland and in order to alleviate the cattle moving to state land, it will be necessary to fence through part of the wetland. He said that owning this property will allow us to move the fence farther east out of the wetland.

Linda Hanson related that project requests generally originate with field staff and that a number of approvals are required before it comes to the land management staff. At that time the request is our responsibility to facilitate the acquisition. It was noted that this is a good acquisition for the department.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

Harmon Lake WMA, Winnebago County -- James and Laurann Anderson

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the acquisition of a parcel of land located in Winnebago County. James and Laurann Anderson offer this 97.62-acre tract for the appraised price of \$78,000. The property will be encumbered by a Wetland Reserve Program easement (sellers are in the process of selling a WRP easement to the USDA-NRCS).

Fred Greder, ARA, of Benchmark Agribusiness, Mason City, Iowa submitted the appraisal. Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement.

The property is located approximately eight miles west and two miles north of Lake Mills adjacent to 480th Street. The property consists of 94.62 acres of farmland (to be encumbered) that will be restored to 75.62 acres of prairie, and 19 acres of wetlands. There are 3.0 acres of road right-of-way and waste. The NRCS restoration plan will enhance filtration and water quality by seeding native prairie species on prior cropland. Completion of the restoration plan will provide excellent habitat for waterfowl and upland birds. The Harmon Lake WMA surrounds the subject tract on three sides. The property is within 150 yards of a population of white ladyslippers located on the Harmon Lake WMA. The 4-acre building site was separated and sold in 2001.

The NRCS allowed the landowners to keep the land in row crop for 2008. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property.

Acquisition funding will be provided by \$73,000 Federal Prairie Lakes II NAWCA fund (Capital Link #17) and a \$5,000 donation from the local chapter of Pheasants Forever. Incidental closing costs are the responsibility of the Department

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the acquisition of a 97.6 acre tract of land located at Harmon Lake WMA in Winnebago County from James and Laurann Anderson for the appraised price of \$78,000. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

Algific Talus Slope Area, Allamakee County -- Arthur Nelson

Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a permanent conservation easement in Allamakee County. The farm that includes the area to be encumbered is located approximately two miles southeast of Waterville. Arthur Nelson offers the 34.5-acre easement for \$45,000.

Dan Kinsinger negotiated the purchase agreement.

The proposed easement is designed to protect a natural area known as an algific talus slope (also known as a cold air slope). It is a rare and almost unknown ecosystem. The entire world's supply consists of a few hundred tiny patches in the Driftless Area of Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. The unusual geology associated with algific talus slopes means that they remain cool on even the hottest summer days. Thus, they host many species found nowhere else in Iowa, or in some cases, nowhere else in the world.

Brian Linnemeyer, MA, MAI, ARA of Indianola, IA, appraised the property. The value of the entire 360 acre larger parcel before the easement is estimated at \$1,260,000 and the value of the entire property after encumbering 34.5 acres with the easement is estimated at \$1,215,000. The

difference of \$45,000 is the estimated value of the rights surrendered because of the easement restrictions.

The proposed conservation easement is permanent and will run with the land. Some of the land use restrictions inherent in the easement are: construction of buildings, roads, and trails; tillage, planting or harvesting of any agricultural crop; livestock pasturing; and commercial development.

Funding will be provided by Federal Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) Tier 2 Grant. Survey, fencing and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Drees to approve the purchase of 34.5 acre permanent conservation easement in the Algific Talus Slope Area in Allamakee County from Arthur Nelson for \$45,000. Seconded by Commissioner Bird.

Commissioner Rettig requested information or a link to information on algific talus slope areas.

Commissioner Garst commented that the water intake above the slope is very important for conserving the slope and there are conservation easements that restrict construction. She said however, that the algific talus slope is mostly in agriculture and asked if there could be a restriction against putting in a septic field there. Garst explained that the water is feeding into the system from the crop ground above it and suggested that we make larger conservation easements and not have the full set of restrictions on the slope, but include some restrictions to protect the water coming into the system

Linda Hanson offered to have Kelly Smith, who manages this program, come and talk about what the federal money can be used for and whether that needed to be combined with state money to do a larger easement on property.

Commissioner Garst explained that she was previously on the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation board when a lot of these were picked up, but they went back later after realizing they had not picked up what was needed to preserve the area. Garst also asked how the development of the department's recording of easements and monitoring program were progressing.

Linda Hanson responded that a conservation easement coordinator is on board who will be responsible for sending out the annual checklist of monitoring items that have to be done on a particular property. He is currently producing and offering the baseline data for all the conservation easements and a monitoring plan for each individual one. His time is limited until we hire an individual to replace him.

Mark Leoschke, DNR botanist, was introduced. Mr. Leoschke will be providing information on algific talus slopes.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present

EASEMENT PURCHASE APPROVED

Angler Access Easement, Allamakee County -- Arthur Nelson

Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a permanent angler access easement on land in Allamakee County. The farm that includes the area to be encumbered is located approximately two miles southeast of Waterville. Arthur Nelson offers the 36.01-acre easement for \$63,000.

Dan Kinsinger negotiated the purchase agreement.

The proposed easement involves a 2.1-mile segment of Paint Creek. The easement is designed to allow the DNR to stock Paint Creek with trout; to effectively manage the stream as a trout fishery; and to post signs in order to delineate authorized public use. The public will have the right to enter the property at three locations and approach the stream by foot only. One or two small parking areas will be developed. The public will be allowed to utilize the access for fishing only.

Brian Linnemeyer, MA, MAI, ARA of Indianola, IA appraised the property. The value of the entire 360 acre property before the easement is estimated at \$1,260,000 and the value of the entire property after encumbering 36.01 acres with the easement is estimated at \$1,197,000. The difference of \$63,000 is the estimated value of the rights surrendered because of the easement restrictions.

The proposed conservation easement is permanent and will run with the land.

Funding will be provided by \$47,250 Federal Dingle-Johnson and \$15,750 Fish Habitat Stamp (Capital Link #5). Survey, fencing and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rettig to approve the purchase of a 36.01-acre permanent angler access easement on a area approximately two miles southeast of Waterville in Allamakee County from Arthur Nelson for \$63,000. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

EASEMENT PURCHASE APPROVED

Bruggeman County Park Area, Black Hawk County -- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a parcel of land located in Black Hawk County. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board managed Bruggeman Park area is located adjacent to the east. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) offers the 124-acre parcel for \$260,000. The appraised value is \$300,000.

John Stortz, Licensed Appraiser of Cedar Falls, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Travis Baker negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located in northeast Black Hawk County, Iowa. The small town of Dunkerton is located 2 1/2 miles southwest. The property is primarily flood prone, wet tillable land. The topography ranges from nearly level to gently sloping. The average Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) for the property is 55.

This tract will be managed as a wetland, native prairie and riparian forestland in association with Wapsipinicon River corridor. The area will be managed by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board through a management agreement.

Funding will be provided by: \$160,000 REAP-Protected Waters Area and \$100,000 Cedar-Wapsi NAWCA (Capital Link #70, #19). The property will remain eligible for continued payment of property taxes assessed by Black Hawk County. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Travis Baker reviewed the item. He said there will be a management agreement with the Black Hawk County Conservation Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the purchase of a 124-acre parcel located at Breuggeman County Park Area in Black Hawk County from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the price of \$260,000. Seconded by Commissioner Drees. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

Springbrook State Park, Guthrie County -- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a parcel of land located in Guthrie County. Springbrook State Park surrounds the property on three sides. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) offers the 10.3-acre parcel for \$162,000. The appraised value is \$182,000.

Donald Kearn, Licensed Appraiser of Atlantic, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Travis Baker negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located in north central Guthrie County, Iowa. The town of Guthrie Center is located 5 miles south. The property is primarily timber covered with no tillable land. The topography ranges from moderately steep to very steep sloping.

This tract will be incorporated into and managed as part of the existing state park. The dwelling will be converted to a multi-family cabin/lodge. Attached is Des Moines Register article about the history of the property, the previous landowner, Floyd Sherburne, and the house he built.

Acquisition funding will be provided by 100% REAP Open Spaces (Capital Link #62). The property will remain eligible for continued payment of property taxes assessed by Guthrie County. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bird to approve the purchase of 10.3 acres of land located at Springbrook State Park from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for \$162,000. Seconded by Commissioner Rettig. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

Colo Bogs Wetlands Complex, Story County -- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a parcel of land located in Story County adjacent west of the DNR's Colo Bogs Wetlands Complex. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) offers this 40-acre tract for the appraised price of \$156,000. INHF just recently purchased this tract from Joseph and Phyllis Harper for \$153,000.

Steve Badger, Licensed Appraiser of Marshalltown, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located 2 miles east of Colo in west central Story County. The nearly level tract is comprised of 25.4 acres of cropland, and 13.6 acres of marsh, with the balance in roads. The average Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) of the property is 77. There are no building improvements. A county road forms the west boundary of the tract.

This tract will increase the Colo Bog Wetlands Complex to 450 acres. The acquisition will provide upland nesting and waterfowl habitat, improve surface water quality, and enhance public recreation to this area. The Wildlife Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be provided by: \$115,000 Wildlife Habitat Stamp; \$40,000 Story County Chapter of Pheasants Forever and other Pheasants Forever Chapters; and \$1,000 Big Bluestem Audubon Society (Capital Link #2). The property will remain on the tax rolls. No survey or fencing costs is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Drees to approve the purchase of 40 acres of land located at Colo Bogs in Story County from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the appraised price of \$156,000. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

Commissioner Drees commented that Pheasant Forever chapters rarely get much ink outside their own publication and a \$40,000 donation to a project like this is incredible.

Green Valley State Park, Union County -- Betty E. Gater Estate

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the acquisition of a parcel of land located 2.5 miles north of Creston, and adjacent to the northeast corner of Green Valley State Park. This 67.58-acre parcel is offered by the Betty E. Gater Estate for \$338,000.

Kenneth M. Mallas, Licensed Appraiser of Corning, Iowa, submitted the appraisal August 17, 2007 to Ronald Gater. The appraisal provided an estimate of value for 70.58 acres of land with a dwelling for \$338,732. The estate is reserving 3 acres. Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement.

The tract consists of 59.8 acres of cropland and 7.78 acres of timber-pasture-building site. The tract includes a one-story dwelling built in 1960. A major drainage system runs from north to south through the tract with additional drainage starting at the eastern boundary running west. The DNR has determined that over 30% of the phosphorus loading to the lake system comes from this portion of the watershed. In addition, this site can serve as a storage area for nutrient-laden sediments that will be removed from the Green Valley Lake during the lake restoration process, and thus, acquisition of the tract will enhance the water quality of the Lake. The Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) for the crop acres is 59.8 and the average CSR for the property is 50.67. The family has stipulated that the tract be designated the Gater Recreation Area as part of Green Valley State Park, and has reserved one year of cropping.

Acquisition funding will be provided by Lake Restoration (Capital Link #43). Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the purchase of a 67.58-acre parcel of land located adjacent to Green Valley State Park from the Betty E. Gater Estate for \$338,000. Seconded by Commissioner Drees.

Discussion ensued about the appraised value and the fact that the estate was reserving three acres which may potentially result in a sale above appraised value. Explanation was that paying for an appraiser and obtaining an updated appraisal may result in a significant increase in the price of the land. Short discussion continued regarding naming rights. Ken Herring noted that the Recognition Policy has a clause for recognizing, and if the negotiations indicate that is the only way we can purchase the property we will honor that. He said the name designation for this property meets that policy.

Commissioner Garst questioned if the department asks for right of first refusal when certain sites are reserved during acquisition negotiations and also asked if right of first refusal can be inserted in the sale. Linda Hanson offered to follow up with Jerry Gibson to see if that is in the negotiations and whether that can be included.

Commissioner Garst remarked that the right of first refusal would be similar to the easements in that they would need to be tracked. She suggested inserting rights of first refusal into the conservation easement system as a tracking methodology.

Commissioner Rettig said that on a philosophical basis, she does not think selling something at market value entitles you to get to name it. She said when people donate land or they sell it below market value, they then may have some naming right negotiation with us. She said, however, that the state should not be in the business of naming everything. Rettig added that there are plenty of groups who donate money and plenty of families who donate land or sell below market value who don't get naming rights. She cautioned that we should be very careful about giving names to state property.

Travis Baker explained that on most of the acquisitions the landowners request naming rights and generally unless they donate all or part of it, that request is denied. He said that in this case it could have been a deal breaker but because of the significance and importance of this property we did not want to walk away.

Commissioner Rettig offered that careful thought should be given about giving away naming rights. She said it is a valuable commodity and corporations pay a lot of money to get naming rights.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

CHAPTER 18 LEASES

Linda Hanson, Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item.

Mississippi River, Scott County -- CENEX Harvest States Inc.

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 105-R with CENEX Harvest States Inc of St. Paul, Minnesota.

The location is described as a portion of the bed of the Mississippi River approximately 215 feet of frontage by 45 feet of depth located in Section 25, Township 77 North, Range 2 East of the 5th P.M. at Mississippi River Mile 475.7 in Scott County, Iowa. The site is used for barge loading and unloading.

The location has been under lease since 1998.

The term of the lease will be for five years. The annual fee is \$1,500 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 105-R with CENEX harvest States Inc of St. Paul, Minnesota for the Mississippi River in Scott County and the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 43-R with Consolidated Grain and Barge Company of Fayette, Iowa for the Mississippi River in Clayton County. Seconded by Commissioner Bird. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

LEASES APPROVED

Mississippi River, Clayton County -- Consolidated Grain and Barge Company

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 43-R with Consolidated Grain and Barge Company of Fayette, Iowa.

The lease area consists of approximately 420 feet of frontage by 70 feet of depth located within Mississippi River Mile 624.1 to 622.37 in Sections 6 and 7, Township 93 North, Range 2 West of the 5th P.M., Clayton County, Iowa. The site is used for barge loading and unloading.

The location has been under lease since 1983.

The term of the lease will be for five years. The annual fee is \$2,364 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees.

LEASE APPROVED

West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson County -- Jerry and Mary Freeman

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 44-R with Jerry and Mary Freeman of Sheldon, Iowa.

An area four feet wide by sixteen feet long and an area three feet wide by twenty-eight feet long located adjacent to Lot 18, Block 35, Blue Water Beach Subdivision in Section 2, Township 99 North, Range 35 West of the 5th P.M., Dickinson County, Iowa. The site contains a deck that is attached to the dwelling and stairs that lead down to the lake area.

The location has been under lease since 1983.

The term of the lease will be for five years. The annual fee is \$150 with a condition that the fee may be adjusted to comply with adopted administrative rule changes that affect lease fees.

<i>Motion was made by Commissioner Rettig to approve the renewal of Chapter 18 Lease Number 44-R with Jerry and Mary Freeman of Sheldon, Iowa for West Okoboji Lake in Dickinson County. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.</i>
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Discussion ensued regarding the cost of lakeside land in the West Okoboji area and the fact that this lease is a really good deal. Commissioner Rettig said that people should not be charged too much money but they should be paying for the resource they are getting and \$150 is outrageously low for a deck and stairs with lakeside access. She said she would vote "no" until reasonable rates are set.

Ken Herring remarked that there was a huge effort two years ago to better align the department's lease fees. The Chapter 18 lease fees were put on hold for a while but the revisit of these leases is underway. He said it would be a process and not an immediate thing.

Kelley Myers explained that the property in this lease is dedicated property that sits back from the lake. She said the encroachments in this area occurred prior to the legislative change that gave the department and commission jurisdiction over this dedicated land and the Chapter 18 Leases was given at that time. Myers related that the Chapter 18 rules were separated from and stopped when the dock rules were developed last year. She said that an internal working group has been working on Chapter 13, which are the sovereign land construction rules where discussions are about the kind of leases, the kind of temporary permits and the type of easements that should be allowed. Myers said this undertaking is bringing together conservation officers, wildlife staff and the sovereign land staff to try to figure out how best to regulate these leases. Myers went on to say that Chapter 18 will be the last piece to fall in line and are still in the regulatory plan. She said the hope is to get Chapter 13 out for initial notice sometime this fall and after that staff will continue working on Chapter 18.

Commissioner Rettig commented that we are begging for money at the legislature and we have a financial responsibility to charge a reasonable rate for our lands that we allow people to use; and we have to do that. She said that if not it is disingenuous to go back to the legislature and ask for money. Rettig said we have to get reasonable fees for access like this and it is not good enough to say "we are working on it." She said she would vote "no" on this lease because it is outrageous to charge only \$150.00 for this encroachment.

Commissioner Drees stated that he visited the site and that it is a very unique resort operation that is offset from the actual lake front. He said this agreement does allow access to West Lake Okoboji to people who wouldn't normally have access, whether the lease amount is correct or incorrect. Drees said that if the lease amount is adjusted to what it might be worth, it may well be putting these people out of business.

Motion carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Rettig vote "nay".

LEASE APPROVED

HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK MONTHLY UPDATE

Terry Montgomery was congratulated on his new position and wished well. He was also praised for the work he did getting the project on track and his efforts on answering questions on the Honey Creek project. Montgomery said the work toward making the project work has been a team and collective effort. He distributed recent photographs showing the construction progress and reported that the project remains on schedule for the August opening. He said Liz Christiansen will present a full marketing update at next month's meeting.

Montgomery noted that Representative Loeb sack and Carol Bradley visited the Honey Creek Resort site last week. Loeb sack and his staff have been very involved in work on federal funding for the bridge in Phase 3 of the project. He noted that other promotional activities include a press release for the Outdoor Fest for Pheasants Forever and Mrs. Bush and the Secretary of Agriculture have tentatively put that on their schedule. In addition, the Travel Writer will have Honey Creek Resort featured as one of the 50 great new things happening in this country this summer and USA Today will include pictures of Honey Creek in their Friday before Memorial Day edition.

Michelle Wilson distributed information on the interpretive programming aspect of the resort state park. She reviewed the types of activities that would be put together for the summer schedule and talked about the theme-type activities and the variations of different kinds of events and topics. Wilson stated that two full time interpreters/naturalists will be at the site year around as well as a full-time seasonal interpreter to do interpretive programming seven days of the week. In addition, Central Group will have a full-time activities director as well as a full-time seasonal interpreter in the summer. There will be multiple layers of activities and there will be an on-line schedule, some of which can be pre-booked in the reservation system.

Commissioner Rettig expressed that she was pleased with the department for buying into the staffing at Honey Creek and that she appreciates the leadership of the people who kept saying to do that. Rettig also asked that the Central Group's operating budget be given to the commissioners. Commissioner Francisco complimented staff on the planned interpretive program.

Discussion continued about maintaining an operating reserve or contingency fund beyond the \$500,000 required by the bond. Commissioner Rettig said she has never found the \$500,000 for operating reserve as acceptable. Terry Montgomery briefly talked about the infrastructure funding and possible language in the infrastructure bill. He said it would be in the best interest to not spend the last \$700,000 on the project and have that in the bank if it is available. Montgomery said there are three major construction projects left to finish: the lodge, the road package and the lagoon package. He said if the \$8 million is appropriated, the cabins will get finished and through a potential partnership with Indian Hills Community College, the activity building will be built for cost. For the first year staff will "get by" by crowding offices into the shed but will have offices in the activities center thereafter. Montgomery said one more internal vetting process will take place following this season's opening to discuss additional features desirable for the resort.

Director Leopold announced that Liz Christiansen began work immediately following Terry Montgomery's resignation, on how we are going to drive the Honey Creek project to its opening. Christiansen said she will be stepping out of many of her Deputy Director duties to serve as Executive Coordinator within the Director's Office for Honey Creek Resort. Christiansen said her first job is to hire a new Project Manager which will be an ongoing position. She said she has met with the state treasurer and with Andy Anderson, our bond counsel to talk about the transition and has had a teleconference with Central Group. She noted her interest in marketing and said discussions have included publications, billboards, television bites, in addition to

marketing to groups, festivals, corporations, etc. She said the Communications Bureau are engaged and news will continue to come out about Honey Creek.

INFORMATION ITEM.

HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK DONATIONS

Ken Herring introduced Carol Bradley and reported that she has been a favorite partner and a vital component to the Honey Creek project. She has helped with lobbying efforts this year and with fundraising and partnerships in the resort area.

Carol Bradley reviewed some history of the project and told of the fundraising activities. She also noted the NRC approval in July 2006 acknowledging the Rathbun Lake Resort (RLR) undertaking of fund raising efforts and the approval of use of naming rights as a form of recognition of facilities at Honey Creek Resort State Park. She said that item 1) authorized Rathbun Lake RLR to be the recipients of donations that came for this project; 2) it provided a list of items that are the kinds of things that would associate with naming rights as a form of recognition for the purpose of fundraising. She said the list shows some of the work that the committee has done and the specific facilities are listed, along with the donation amounts and type of recognition.

Bradley said that the RLR will work within the commission's framework and have asked DNR leadership for assistance to help get people to the resort site in order to obtain sponsorships. She said that in listening to the interpretive/naturalist activities planned for the resort, she sees great promise in working together to secure private monies to help with that on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Bradley reported that she has committed to Rathbun Lake Resort Incorporated and to DNR to work on project for as much time as it takes over the next several months. She said she hopes to exceed the money that is needed to repay the loan. She also remarked that the local interest will not be lost when the resort is opened and will be a long and contributory component of the parks system. She thanked the commission and staff for their vision and courage to step out on something that never had been done before and for the courage to stay with it every time it gets tough.

Commissioner Garst thanked Carol Bradley for her work on this project and for working with the legislative issues.

INFORMATION ITEM

COMMERCIAL CONCESSION CONTRACT – STORM LAKE MARINA

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to approve the Storm Lake commercial concession contract to Robert Kelly, dba Shamrock Boat Sales.

Notice of concession availability was published in the Des Moines Register Sunday Business Opportunities section on November 18, 2007, for Storm Lake Marina. Notices were also published in eight local/regional papers October 16-21, 2007. Individual notices were mailed to 34 people in and around the Storm Lake region. One bid was received.

Robert (Bob) Kelly, dba Shamrock Boat Sales of Carnarvon, Iowa, proposes a five-year contract offering the following services:

1. Snack-food service (pop, candy, chips, ice cream, etc.)
2. Convenience store items (ice, batteries, etc.)
3. Complete boat and motor repair services
4. Seasonal boat storage (limited to boat repair/storage building and fenced maintenance area)
5. Boat and motor sales
6. Provision of boat gas and oil sales
7. Boating accessories (ski ropes, inflatables, props, lighting equipment, etc.)
8. Boat rental
9. Operation of marina dock slip rental
10. Hoist installation and removal including temporary storage
11. Dock and hoist sales
12. Bait and tackle sales
13. Hunting and fishing license sales
14. Café/grill operation (to be operational in 2009)

The proposed fees to be paid to the State are: 1% of gross receipts (less sales tax) for contract years 2008-2010 and 1.5% of gross receipts (less sales tax) for contract years 2011-2012.

Mr. Kelly has been in the marine business for 35 years. During the first 30 years of his career, he was employed by Paul Alesch who owned and operated Shamrock Boat Sales. The operation provided sales and service of boats, motors, trailers, docks, hoists, and general marine accessories. Additional services included dock and hoist installation and removal, gas sales, boat storage, and dock and slip rental. Mr. Kelly purchased the business from Mr. Alesch in 2003 and currently employs five full time employees. Mr. Kelly has been a master mechanic with Mercury Marine for the past 25 years.

Staff at Black Hawk State Park will assist with monitoring the operation. Staff recommends approval of the Storm Lake commercial concession contract to Robert Kelly, dba Shamrock Boat Sales.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve a commercial concession contract with Robert Kelly, dba Shamrock Boat Sales for the Storm Lake Marina. Seconded by Commissioner Drees.

There was discussion about the concession fees charged by the state. Note was made that the Storm Lake marina is the only marina operation that DNR has and the fee for this concession is

typical for start up. It was also noted that this fee will be elevated as the business gets established. Discussion continued about the defined amount from the Big Creek concessionaire and that this concession is a percentage of gross receipts. The differences of the two concessions and their projected gross receipts were talked about. Commissioner Rettig questioned a possible \$1500 income from a \$2.8 million investment at Storm Lake.

Ken Herring stated that the department has worked with Storm Lake for several years and this is one of the components of that project we hoped would attract people to use the lake and become an economic center. Don Labate explained that the Storm Lake project is a community project as well as a state facility. He said DNR has no staff there and the concession contract provides for the maintenance on the facility, keeping the boat docks clean, police for trash, mowing, upkeep of the road system, etc., so this contract is more than just running a concession.

Kevin Szcodronski described the Big Creek concession as a long established, progressive and cost effective and well-run concession that does a wonderful business and probably has a quite high income. He said that the main goal at many state concessions is to provide the service to the public. He added that many concessions run in the red for the first couple of years because of up-starting costs.

Commissioner Rettig said she thinks the taxpayers of Iowa expect some sort of return and \$1500 is not a very good rate of return for a \$2.8 million investment. She said she is disappointed to see not only that number but also disappointed that only one person was interested in running the concession, which indicates that it may not be needed in the first place. Rettig said if no one can make a living at it, why do we need to be spending millions of dollars on a marina or even have it in the first place if there is no interest in it and nobody can figure out a way to make money on it.

Motion on the concession contract carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Rettig voting "nay".

CONCESSION CONTRACT APPROVED

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION—CHAPTER 40, BOATING SPEED AND DISTANCE ZONING (CATFISH CREEK, MINES OF SPAIN RECREATION AREA)

Ken Herring, Administration, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission's approval is requested for publication of a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 40 "Boating Speed and Distance Zoning." This amendment establishes a no-wake zone on Catfish Creek by placement of regulatory buoys beginning at the mouth of Catfish Creek and extending upstream to the confluence of Catfish Creek and Granger Creek.

Catfish Creek, which runs through Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, continues to increase in popularity for "quiet water activities" such as canoeing, kayaking, water-based eco-tours and

wildlife watching. Watercraft entering the area at a great speed creates wake problems for these boaters/visitors.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 40, "Boating Speed and Distance Zoning," Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment establishes a no-wake zone on Catfish Creek by placement of regulatory buoys beginning at the mouth of Catfish Creek and extending upstream to the confluence of Catfish Creek and Granger Creek. Catfish Creek, which runs through Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, continues to increase in popularity for "quiet water activities" such as canoeing, kayaking, water-based eco-tours and wildlife watching. Watercraft entering the area at a great speed creates wake problems for these boaters/visitors.

Any person may make written comments on this proposed rule amendment on or before May 27, 2008. Such comments and written material should be directed to the State Parks Bureau; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Wallace State Office Building; 502 East 9th Street; Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. Persons who wish to convey their comments orally should contact Sherry Arntzen with the State Parks Bureau at (515)242-6233.

Two public hearings will be held on May 27, 2008, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. The first hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Fourth Floor West Conference Room at the Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines. The second hearing will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the EB Lyons Nature Center at Mines of Spain State Recreation Area in Dubuque. At the hearings, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendment.

Any persons who attend the public hearing and have special needs such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

This amendment is intended to implement section 456A.25 of the Code of Iowa.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend 571—Chapter 40 by adopting the following new rule:

571--40.57(462A) Zoning of Catfish Creek, Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque County.

All vessels shall be operated at no-wake speed within the area beginning at the mouth of Catfish Creek and extending upstream to the confluence of Catfish Creek and Granger Creek and designated by uniform marker buoys approved by the natural resource commission.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

Motion was made by Commissioner Bird to approve Notice of Intended Action—Chapter 40, Boating Speed and Distance Zoning (Catfish Creek and Mines of Spain Area). Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

NOTICE APPROVED

LAKE MANAWA DIAGNOSTIC AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to approve an agreement with a provider, to be named after the 04/08/08 bid selection process and provided to the Commission prior to the 04/10/08 NRC meeting, to provide a diagnostic feasibility study of Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County, as part of the Department of Natural Resources' Lake Restoration activities. The parties will enter into a one-year contract in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 to analyze and make technical recommendations for restoration and potential dredging activities at Lake Manawa to meet water quality goals. Specific objectives of the Project include:

1. Determine the feasibility of conducting dredging activities at Lake Manawa.
2. Identify any risks and remedial actions that should be taken with respect to the dredging activities at Lake Manawa.
3. If dredging is feasible, identify locations and method of in-lake dredging to obtain sand that meets DOT standards for highway building material.
4. Evaluate how a change(s) to the lake bottom, as the result of dredging, will influence the in-flow and out-flow (mass balance) of water in Lake Manawa.
5. Evaluate in-flow and out-flow interactions between Lake Manawa and Indian and Mosquito Creeks. Make recommendations on future water budgets for maintaining the desired lake water level.
6. Provide the DNR with a diagnostic and feasibility study of Lake Manawa for planning a lake restoration program on the lake and its watershed.
7. Provide an analysis and description of the current watershed and storm water movement, characteristics, and recommended improvements that could be made that would be beneficial to the water quality of the lake and environmental quality of the watershed.
8. Provide alternatives to proposed lake restoration activities contemplated in the existing studies and this RFP to meet water quality and recreational goals

In addition to the Department's dedicated Lake Restoration funds, the Department shall utilize local contributions, which may constitute up to 25% of the study's cost. The Department utilized a competitive process to select the Contractor.

Diagnostic and Feasibility Study of Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County

Evaluation Committee

The Department conducted a comprehensive, fair and impartial evaluation of bid proposals received in response to this RFP. The Department used an Evaluation Committee to review and evaluate the proposals.

Evaluation Committee Members

Mike McGhee, IDNR, Lake Restoration Program
George Antoniou, IDNR, Lake Restoration Program
Don Labate, IDNR, FAC ENGR 2
Mark Johnson, IDNR, FAC ENGR 1

Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Committee evaluated all proposals and made an award made using the following criteria, which are listed in no particular order.

The evaluation committee evaluated and scored all proposals meeting all mandatory requirements, utilizing the following criteria:

- 4.3.1 Capability - Ability of the service provider to deliver products similar to those described in the RFP; demonstrated integrity and reliability.
- 4.3.2 Technical Expertise - Experience of the service provider and key individual(s) assigned to complete items listed within the project scope; professional licensing; past performance relative to the quality and timeliness of service on similar project and past experience with the state of Iowa in relation to services provided.
- 4.3.3 Work Plan – Proposed terms of delivery; assurance of high quality product & services, on time and within budget.
- 4.3.4 Cost - The cost of delivering the requested products & services to DNR are in the best interests of the state.

The evaluation committee ranked the proposals based on the following point values for the four criteria:

Criterion	Points
Capability	25
Technical Expertise	25
Work Plan	20
Cost	30

Service Provider Rankings (based on average score of the evaluation committee)

Tetra Tech, Inc.
9910 North 48th Street, Ste. 200
Omaha, NE 68152
Rank 1 Score 89

Olsson Associates
1111 Lincoln Mall, Ste. 111
Lincoln, NE 68501-4608
Rank 2 Score 73

HDR
8404 Indian Hills Drive
Omaha, NE 68114-4098
Rank 2 Score 73

Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee

The final ranking of the service providers is presented above. Based on their respective scores, it is the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee that DNR management and the Natural Resources Commission negotiate and execute a contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. for a Diagnostic and Feasibility Study of Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County.

Mike McGhee, Lakes Coordinator and George Antoniou were introduced and talked about the Lake Manawa diagnostic and feasibility study. They presented background history of the dredging at Lake Manawa. McGhee also pointed out that a local group, Friends of Lake Manawa, will be asked for a financial contribution to pay approximately 25% of the study's cost. The Commission was asked to approve a one-year contract agreement not to exceed \$225,000 with Tetra Tech, Inc. to analyze and make technical recommendations for restoration and potential dredging activities at Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie County to meet water quality goals as part of the Department of Natural Resources' Lake Restoration activities.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve a diagnostic feasibility study of Lake Manawa in Pottawattamie County with Tetra Tech, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$225,000. Seconded by Commissioner Drees.

Commissioner Rettig remarked that if this project is being done only to get DOT materials, they should be paying for it. Mike McGhee explained that if it is determined we can provide the materials, we will be in negotiations with DOT. He described the uniqueness of Lake Manawa and said this study will not only provide information on risks and remedial actions that should be taken with respect to the dredging activities at Lake Manawa but will provide diagnostic and feasibility information of Lake Manawa for planning a lake restoration program on the lake and its watershed. It will also provide an analysis and description of the current watershed and storm water movement, characteristics, and recommended improvements that could be made that would be beneficial to the water quality of the lake and environmental quality of the watershed.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

STUDY APPROVED

LAKE RESTORATION ASSESSMENT WITH IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY-- DETERMINING HISTORIC WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS IN IOWA NATURAL LAKES

George Antoniou, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to approve an agreement with Iowa State University (ISU) to conduct a three-year study related to the Department's lake restoration activities. The parties will enter into this Contract for the purpose of funding a study to determine historic water quality conditions in 34 of Iowa's natural lakes using standard paleolimnological methods for use in the setting of realistic goals for lake restoration. Specific objectives of the Project include:

1. Determine total phosphorous levels and sedimentation rates that existed prior to European settlement in Iowa (ca. 1850) along with their level of precision.
2. Use determined total phosphorus levels and sedimentation rates to: (A) aid in the setting of benchmarks for lake restoration; (B) provide quantitative historical information on pre-European status of natural lakes included in the Project; and (C) provide the DNR with clear reference conditions for the minimally disturbed condition of lake ecosystems within the state.
3. Determine eutrophication rates in Iowa's natural lakes via fluxes in sedimentation and nutrient levels, prior to and since European settlement, to evaluate the impact of land-use changes within the lakes' watersheds.
4. Develop the necessary technology (a diatom transfer function) from current environmental conditions and species assemblages unique to Iowa and also inclusive of conditions and assemblages hypothesized to have historically existed in the state.

This three-year study will be funded through the Department's Lake Restoration Program. The Department will pay ISU an amount not to exceed \$272,495 over the three-year study, which will be used to pay personnel, lab analysis, travel, and equipment.

The Department has a long history of working with the proposed service provider, Dr. John Downing, Professor, ISU, on a variety of water quality related research. These past and on-going projects include Diagnostic Studies of Iowa lakes, the Iowa Lakes Information System (interactive lakes database), and collaboration with the Center of Agriculture and Rural Development on lake economics. Past contracts have been completed in a timely, professional manner.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rettig to approve an agreement with Iowa State University (ISU) to conduct a three-year study related to the Department's lake restoration activities. Seconded by Commissioner Drees. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

AGREEMENT APPROVED

FINAL RULE—CHAPTER 40, BOATING SPEED AND DISTANCE ZONING (BURLINGTON)

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to amend Chapter 40, "Speed & Distance Zoning," Iowa Administrative Code. This amendment is being requested by the City of Burlington for the creation of a no-wake zone on two locations on the Mississippi River within the City of Burlington. The areas being proposed are part of an historic riverfront and also contain two municipal boat ramps and public dock areas. The City of Burlington is requesting this amendment to help ensure the aesthetics of the historic frontage as well as the safety of the public who use the docks and boat ramp for water recreation purposes. No comments were received at the public hearings or during the comment period. Minor changes were made to the

Notice of Intended Action, as requested by the City of Burlington, to reduce the size/area of the originally proposed no-wake zone.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission adopts amendment to Chapter 40 “Boating Speed and Distance Zoning,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment is requested by the City of Burlington in Des Moines County. This amendment establishes two no-wake zones on the Mississippi River at the City of Burlington. Regulatory buoys will be placed in such a way as to define a no-wake zone designated at each of the two city dock/boat ramp locations. One zone at the north city dock/boat ramp and one zone at the south dock/boat ramp. The marker buoys will be placed no farther than 150 feet from the shoreline with each zone extending no more than 750 feet in width. Changes from the Notice of Intended Action were made based upon a request from the City of Burlington to reduce the size of the originally proposed zoned area and create two smaller zones one for each boat ramp site.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on February 13, 2008, as ARC6597B. Public hearing was held at the Wallace State Office Building on March 5, 2008, and public hearing held locally by the City of Burlington on February 19, 2008. No written or oral comments were received at the hearings or during the comment period. There are changes to the Notice of Intended action as requested by the City of Burlington. These changes have been included in this final rule.

This amendment is intended to implement section 456A.25 of the Code of Iowa.

The following amendment will become effective June 11, 2008.

Amend 571—Chapter 40 by adopting the following **new** rule:
571--40.56(462A) Zoning of Mississippi River, Des Moines County, city of Burlington. All vessels shall be operated at a no-wake speed within the two zoned areas designated by marker buoys or other approved uniform waterway markers. The two zoned areas include the north and south city dock/boat ramp locations, and each zone shall extend no farther than 150 feet from shore and be no wider than 750 feet. The City of Burlington shall designate the no-wake zones with buoys approved by the natural resource commission.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

<i>Motion was made by Commissioner Bird to approve Final Rule—Chapter 40, Boating Speed and Distance Zoning (Burlington). Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.</i>

Commissioner Rettig asked if anyone knows how far out from the shore is the state line and if anyone knows how far out from the shore is the Mississippi River channel southbound.

Ken Herring responded that the channel is out well beyond the 150 feet. He said that law enforcement staff did follow up and ask the city of Burlington specifically if this rule change would cause interference with barge traffic and staff has been assured that it does not interfere with barge traffic.

Lowell Joslin reported that the state line is the center of the navigation channel and that distance varies. He said the report back to the office indicates that the navigable channel is further out than the 150 feet that is being requested.

Commissioner Rettig displayed a photograph of the bridge and indicated the location of the channel marker and asked how many feet out from shore it is. That exact information was not available. Discussion continued about the exact location of the boat ramps and the two zones and whether the correct locations were checked by the officers. Commissioner Rettig said that if it is not known where the state line is and we don't know where the channel is, then we should not be doing a rule that could affect the channel. Rettig said she asked a month ago how far out from shore the channel is and she still does not have an answer so she is going to vote "no" again. She said she thinks the city of Burlington's interest in this is different than the users of the river.

Commissioner Francisco asked if when the public was noticed if the barge companies would have been aware of this rule change. Lowell Joslin responded that two public hearings, one in Des Moines and one in Burlington were held but it is doubtful that a public notice was sent specifically to barge companies. He said that no comments for or against the rule were received.

Ken Herring said the Burlington city council conducted a public hearing. He said he would trust the city with their request for this, and along with the public hearing, feels due diligence has been done. Herring explained that he did not center his request for information around the distance, but rather on establishing a slow zone in the navigational channel. Discussion continued regarding the location of the boat ramps. Commissioner Rettig said she would be much more comfortable with the rule if it said it could not be within a certain number of feet of a navigable channel. She said she does not want to give Burlington authority to assume they have the ability to go up to the channel or into the channel.

Commissioner Bird said he would vote "no" for the rule because questions have been raised that need more clarification before being able to vote intelligently.

Motion failed to pass on a 3-2 vote with Commissioners Rettig and Bird voting "nay".

FINAL RULE FAILED TO PASS

Commissioner Rettig remarked that she could vote for the rule if there were words to the effect that the marker buoys will be placed no closer than so many feet from the channel buoys.

Short discussion continued about whether the rule can be brought back to the Commission for vote if additional information is provided. Chairperson Garst stated that it could be brought to the next months' meeting if it is determined to be feasible.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION—CHAPTER 40, BOATING SPEED AND DISTANCE ZONING (LAKE ODESSA)

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission's approval is requested for publication of a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 40 "Boating Speed and Distance Zoning." This amendment adds two areas to the no-wake areas designated for Lake Odessa.

The Lake Odessa narrow channels will be dredged in 2008 to allow hydraulic connection of water areas for fish movement during low-water periods in summer and winter. The life of these channels can be significantly extended by reducing boat wakes and resultant shoreline erosion. Both channels are well-protected from wind fetch and wave erosion so boat activity will be the primary source of shoreline erosion in these two locations.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571] Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 40, "Boating Speed and Distance Zoning," Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 40 specifies the areas where limitations are needed to permit appropriate utilization of specific water areas.

This amendment adds two areas to the no-wake areas designated for Lake Odessa. These narrow channels will be dredged in 2008 to allow hydraulic connection of water areas during low water periods in summer and winter for fish movement. The life of these channels can be significantly extended by reducing boat wakes and resultant shoreline erosion. Both channels are well-protected from wind fetch and wave erosion so boat activity will be the primary source of shoreline erosion in these two locations.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before May 29, 2008. Written comments may be sent to Bill Ohde, Odessa Wildlife Management Unit, 260 Mulberry, Suite 3, Wapello, Iowa 52653. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact Bill Ohde at (319)523-8319 or at the Wildlife Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

There will be a public hearing on May 29, 2008, at the Briggs Civic Center, 317 N. Water Street in Wapello, Iowa. At the hearing, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendment.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 462A.17, 462A.26 , and 462A.31.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend rule 571—40.9(3) by adopting the following **new** subrule:

40.9(3) All motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, shall be operated at no-wake speed year around, on those portions of Lake Odessa known as the Lateral Ditch, between the Main Lake and Bebee Pond, and on the channel between Yankee Chute and Beaver Pond.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

Motion was made by Commissioner Drees to approve Notice of Intended Action—Chapter 40, Boating Speed and Distance (Lake Odessa). Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.

Commissioner Rettig requested background information or a briefing on Lake Odessa before the meeting in this area in August. Commissioner Drees stated that at the Waterfowl Summit a power point presentation was made on Lake Odessa and a hardcopy of that presentation would be excellent.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

NOTICE APPROVED

HARVESTING GINSENG IN IOWA

Ken Herring introduced Conservation Officers Mike Macke and Burt Walters to present the following item.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oversees a nationwide program on ginseng and regulates the import/export of the plant (roots and seeds included). The Iowa Legislature has also specifically granted the Department with the authority to establish and manage a program regarding the taking, harvesting, and dealing of ginseng in Iowa.

The popularity of ginseng is growing, resulting in a very lucrative crop for ginseng growers, harvesters, and dealers. Moreover, demand for wild-grown ginseng is growing, which impacts the sustainability of the resource in its natural setting. Department staff within Wildlife and Law Enforcement bureaus have reviewed the current ginseng program and have determined there is a need to make changes to Iowa Administrative Code 571, Chapter 78 “Ginseng Harvesting and Sale” to ensure this resource is protected. The federal government’s increased enforcement in other states is also motivating the team to address new rules in Iowa now.

Current regulations allow for the harvesting of ginseng from all state lands except state parks and preserves during the harvest season (September 1st - October 31st). The Department may consider prohibiting the harvesting wild ginseng on state lands.

A power point presentation was given and individual questions were answered.

INFORMATION ITEM

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DONATIONS

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Natural Resource Commission is requested to approve the following donations:

Donation to:	Amount	Description	Donation Provided by (Name/Org):
Lake Macbride State Park	\$250.00	for the donation toward ecosystem work and prairie plantings	Tom Cardella
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$500.00	for the donation toward the purchase of materials, supplies, and refreshments for Mines of Spain Recreation Area's Winter Sunday Programs	Doug Olk, Friends of the Mines of Spain
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$500.00	for the donation toward the purchase of bird seed for the feeders at the EB Lyons Interpretive Center	Jeff Burger
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$1,375.00	for the donation toward the purchase of interpretive supplies and materials for programs	Doug Olk, Friends of the Mines of Spain
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$1,500.00	for the donation toward the purchase of supplies and materials for interpretive programs targeting bird watching, hiking, canoeing, and photography	Doug Olk, Friends of the Mines of Spain
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$1,693.00	for the donation of concrete, mortar, rebar, and labor toward an Eagle Scout project that constructed a stone entrance portal for Mines of Spain	Nathan Dolter

Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$1,772.16	for the labor and equipment used to clear brush, rocks, and trees on the Otto Junkermann Historic Site where grape vines will be planted in the spring	Ty Zirker
Mines of Spain Recreation Area	\$2,208.86	for the labor and products (lumber, bolts, screws, nails) to construct a 45 foot trail bridge on the Lead Mines Trail by EB Lyons Interpretive Center	Wade Gibson
the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$10.00	for the donation in memory of Art Gemmer to improve fishing	Steve Hostert
the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund	\$1,000.00	for the donation in support of the Fisheries Bureau at the Des Moines Sportshow	National Marine Manufacturers Association

Motion was made by Commissioner Rettig to approve the donations to the Conservation and Recreation Division. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco.

Commissioner Rettig praised the Mines of Spain Recreation Area staff. She said not many months go by that they do not have donations on the list at meetings and they are doing a good job partnering and getting donations. The staff working there and their relationship with their community is to be commended and should serve as a model.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present

DONATIONS APPROVED

WATER RECREATION ACCESS COST-SHARE (WRAC) GRANTS

Ken Herring, Administrator, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to approve funding for the recommended Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) Grant applications for FY09, funded through the Marine Fuel Tax Program and Federal Coast Guard.

Grant applications have been reviewed and prioritized by a seven member review committee according to rules provided for in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 571 - 30. One application received additional consideration pursuant to Iowa Code section 303.3C, as it is a participant in Iowa's Great Places. The Department received 22 applications total, and is recommending the funding of 11 projects.

The 11 successful applicants constitute projects totaling \$243,167. The Department recommends awarding not more than \$182,375.25 to these 11 successful applicants as shown below; the remaining portion of the project costs, \$60,791.75 or 25% of the total project costs, shall be provided by the applicant as part of the cost sharing requirement of the WRAC program.

The following is a listing of the selected applications and associated grant awards.

Applicant	Area Description	MFT/CG Funding Recommendation	Total Project Costs
Black Hawk County Conservation Board	Cedar River Access Boat Ramp Parking Renovation	\$10,326.00	\$13,768.00
Charles City Parks & Recreation	Lower Cedar Boat Ramp Canoe/Kayak Ramp and Support Facilities	\$89,228.25	\$118,971.00
City of Iowa Falls Parks& Recreation	Dougan's Landing/Iowa River Access Renovation	\$22,875.00	\$30,500.00
City of Lenox	East Lenox Lake Paved Boat Ramp Development	\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00
Des Moines County Conservation Board	Big Hollow Creek Rec. Area Restroom and Dock Addition	\$18,525.00	\$24,700.00
Jackson County Conservation Board	Mill Creek Park Dock Repair Extension	\$3,775.50	\$5,034.00
Jackson County Conservation Board	Mill Creek Park Dock Repair	\$1,963.50	\$2,618.00
Jackson County Conservation Board	Spragueville Access Boat Ramp Repair	\$2,682.00	\$3,576.00
Taylor County Conservation Board	Windmill Lake Paved Boat Ramp Development	\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00
Taylor County Conservation Board	Windmill Lake Boat Docks	\$3,000	\$4,000
Taylor County Conservation Board	Wilson Lake Boat Dock	\$3,000	\$4,000
TOTAL		\$182,375.25	\$243,167.00

In the event any of the recommended applicants are unable to meet the obligations of the WRAC program and funds remain available, the Department may reevaluate and reconsider the denied applications for component eligibility and, if qualified, will submit to the Commission for approval.

Michelle Wilson presented information regarding the Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) Grant program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Drees to approve the list of Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Grant applications as prioritized by a seven member review committee according to rules provided for in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 571 - 30. Seconded by Commissioner Rettig.

Commissioner Drees requested information on who serves on the review committees. Michelle Wilson explained that the applicants are scored in a two-fold process. The District Supervisors work with the local entities to submit their grant applications. The District Supervisors using the scoring criteria provided in the Administrative Code score the projects and then those applications are scored by a second committee of DNR staff and do a final ranking.

Commissioner Rettig reminded that at the last meeting the request was made that all applicants for programs be listed on the agenda items so that people understand how much interest there is and it helps make the case for more funding.

Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present

GRANTS APPROVED

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Following discussion, it was determined that Commissioner Garst will attend the Fish and Wildlife Conference this fall. The conference falls during the Commission's September meeting date so the importance of other commissioners being present was noted.

Election of Officers will take place at the May meeting. It was decided earlier that the nominations will be Bill Bird will serve as Chairperson, Greg Drees as Vice-Chairperson and Janelle Rettig as Secretary.

As discussed at the last meeting, Janelle Rettig agreed to serve as the DNR representative on the Mississippi River Parkway Commission.

Commissioner Rettig related that one of the most important things for clean air indoors that has ever happened in this state passed the legislature; that is the indoor smoking ban. She said that this is an environmental issue as well as a clean air issue. She praised the legislature for passing one of the most environmental and health oriented issues we have had in a long time.

Commissioner Garst reminded of earlier discussions regarding development of general statements with regard to possible policies; those issues included green design and water retention.

NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting will be held May 8 in Iowa Falls, Iowa.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Bird to adjourn the April 10, 2008 NRC meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Drees. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Richard A. Leopold, Director

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